

4 FEB 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Second Session of the 88th Congress

1. This memorandum is for the information of the Director of Central Intelligence.

2. The mood and actions of this new Second Session of the 88th Congress are in startling contrast to the First Session. The general feeling one has is that they fully intend to accomplish all of their business by early summer and wipe out the public image of the dilatory First Session.

3. As to two of the President's major measures, we find the tax bill, which was passed by the House last Session, reported out of Committee and on the floor of the Senate. The second item, the Civil Rights bill, has been reported out of Committee, has passed the hurdle of the Rules Committee, and last Saturday on the floor all general debate was concluded. The sole item on the House floor agenda for this week is the Civil Rights bill with amendments to be considered under the five-minute rule.

4. Mr. Cannon made a detailed presentation on the floor of the House on the day the President's budget was sent to the House and established a schedule for all appropriations bills to include reporting and floor action. That schedule is attached. The Appropriations Committee has been holding extensive meetings and their prediction is that they will beat Mr. Cannon's schedule.

5. In the House Armed Services Committee they have been holding extensive and frequent sessions on the Soviet military posture and the authorization bill for Defense. During last week, Secretary McNamara on occasion was scheduled for 10:00 A. M., 2:00 P. M., and 7:00 P. M. sessions. For example, the Armed Services Committee met at 7:00 P. M. last Friday and held morning and afternoon sessions on Saturday.

6. Under Senate rules, authorization is necessary for committees to meet during sessions of the Senate. Senator Russell, on Friday, received authorization for the Armed Services Committee to meet to consider the Department of Defense authorization bill. In addition, he asked for authority for the Armed Services Committee and the Defense Subcommittee of Appropriations to meet concurrently to expedite the hearings and to avoid repetitious participation both by the witnesses and the members.

7. As reported earlier while you were away, the Administration is now quietly pushing on the Executive Pay bill. It has also been learned that Mr. Murray, Chairman of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee, has abandoned his neutral position and is now supporting the bill. That Committee hopes and expects to go before Rules Committee any day for a rule to take the bill to the floor. At that time, Mr. Morrison is still planning to introduce an amendment with regard to the position of the DCI and the DDCI, and Mr. Murray also will support this amendment.

8. Truly, the Congress both in appearance and in action is creating the impression that it is conducting its affairs in a business-like way. President Johnson's prodding and the elections this fall are major contributing factors.

s/ John S. Warner

JOHN S. WARNER
Legislative Counsel

Attachment

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